

But, as Ely states, EPA cannot regulate. It is up to OSHA to do so. The latter have received 1200 responses to their proposed Indoor Air Quality Review (Occupational Safety and Health Reporter, April 15 (S)). They will probably issue a proposal late 1992, early 1993, which will promote another series of comments and public hearings. The proposal could embrace all aspects of indoor air, it could deal with ETS alone, or there could be no action. According to Indoor Air Review, the tobacco industry favors a ventilation standard and opposes a comprehensive IAQ plan that would curtail or ban smoking in the workplace.

Of interest, Representative Bliley's assistant, Schlagennauf, has left and become Director of the Smokeless Tobacco Council. He was very active indeed in trying to modify and criticize the actions of EPA in this area.

ASH continues to press OSHA on action with regard to ETS. OSHA have withstood all legal challenges to date. Perhaps ASH is worried that ETS may not be singled out in their proposals but that recommendations will be made for all toxic substances on a general basis (Indoor Air Review, February 1992).

According to an AP poll, 54% of Americans, including 59% of former smokers and 70% of those who never smoked regularly, favor a complete ban on smoking in public buildings (N&O, March 25 (S)).

There was an excellent review "Smoke gets in your Eyes" G. Caldwell (American Spectator, May 1992 (S)) severely criticizing the data. "It is significant that the EPA did not cite a single US study showing an ETS/cancer link in its risk assessment - in fact, no US study has ever found such a link." "The ETS risk assessment is the only one that the EPA has ever based solely on epidemiological evidence. The fact that it failed to meet the EPA's own seven-point guidelines for epidemiological studies of potential carcinogens (issued in 1989) makes it seem even more like advocacy."

I noted a statement in Indoor Air Review, May 1992, that the EPA will issue the Draft Risk Assessment on ETS but plans for issuing a proposed policy guide with it have been suspended. This was not mentioned by Ely.

The Coalition on Smoking and Health held a press conference on June 10 in Washington, DC to release a position statement on "ETS and Cardiovascular disease". The statement will appear in the August issue of Circulation. ETS was called an environmental toxin that should be banned in offices and public places (N&O, June 11, (S)).

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(b) Toxic Chemicals

The EPA, in conjunction with the US Geographical Survey, has developed a preliminary radon potential map of the USA (Indoor Air Review, February 1992).

The EPA are re-reviewing asbestos use in products such as asbestos cement in watermain pipes and brake pads, designed for older cars. The ruling on no new use of asbestos for buildings still stands, despite a court ruling in Louisiana (Science, March 27).

I was particularly interested in two papers in Indoor Environment, 1992 (S):

-Acetaldehyde and formaldehyde: is there a cancer risk for man - F.J.C. Roe and D. Woodl.

-Should we listen to granny or to the risk extrapolators? F.J.C. Roe. Reference is made to ETS and other chemicals.

8. CIGARETTE PAPER AND FILTERS

Alain Charet (different speaker) wrote a paper, "Cigarette Papers: What will products and services look like in the year 2000" for the TI/TMA Conference on June 3 (S). I was interested to note the increased use of citrate in American cigarette brands. Emphasis was also made on an environmental policy.

P.J. Nothels of Kimberley-Clark reviewed their "Polypropylene Cigarette Filter Materials - a new alternative". This has been on the market for 2-3 years, but has not been accepted by Filtrona.

A new filter perforation product is reported to reduce smokers' exposure to nicotine and CO by 30-80%. "Phaseout" is a patented hand-held device that makes microfine perforations in the lip end of each cigarette in an unopened soft or hard pack (PR Newswire, April 30).

Dr. J.E. Rose of Duke University is reported working with cigarette companies (could it be RJR?) to develop a smokeless tar-free, nicotine cigarette. The prototype is a plastic cigarette that smokers can puff on without lighting. It delivers the same amount of nicotine as a regular cigarette but without the tar or smoke (N&O, April 15 (S)). He has also developed a cigarette substitute, which uses puffs of citric acid, derived from lemons, to simulate the scratchy throat feeling of smoking a cigarette. He was the inventor, too, of one of the nicotine patches, a product which was a tremendous financial success (N&O, April 15 (S)).

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MISCELLANEOUS

1. World No-Tobacco Day 1992 under the theme "Tobacco free workplaces: Safer and healthier", occurred on May 31 with virtually no press or TV coverage in the USA.
2. The W.H.O. published an international report on April 1 on women and smoking. The rate of smoking in the wealthy nations is from 20-35%, whereas in third world countries it is only 2-10%. Nearly 26% of women in the US smoke.
3. The Federal Trade Commission published two reports (8):
 - (i) Pursuant to the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986, 1991, dealing with smokeless tobaccos (1985-89).
 - (ii) Tar, Nicotine, Carbon monoxide of the smoke of 534 varieties of domestic cigarettes, 1992. These cigarettes were manufactured and sold in 1990. The analysis is carried out by the Tobacco Institute Testing Laboratory (TITL) under the monitoring and review of FTC (Pillsbury)

II. CANADA

Legislation

Jacques La Riviere (CTMC) gave a paper on June 4 on tobacco and politics at the TI/TMA conference. He somewhat confirmed the view, which I have held, that most of the problems in Canada on smoking and health stemmed from the 5th World Conference in 1983 in Winnipeg. Emphasis of blame shifted from the smoker to the manufacturer and S&H became very political. The timing of the 1988 Tobacco Products Control Act was good and the many increases of excise tax generally accepted. There seems, however, to be a swing away from this "extremism", firstly by the Chabot decision on the 1988 Act and advertising and secondly the revocation of the export tax on cigarettes, and no federal and few provincial excise tax increases in 1992. New Brunswick even decreased its tax.

Barbara Rubin, an American lawyer, who has followed the Canadian political scene closely, reviewed the history of the Tobacco Products Control Act. She stated that 60% of all magazines sold in Canada are foreign and contain ads for cigarettes, which can not be prevented. The burden of proof, that lack of advertising would reduce consumption, had to be made by the Government, during the case and the

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subsequent appeal. They could not do this. Indeed a statement found in a government document indicated that an ad ban would not affect consumption level (c.f. Norway, Finland). The Justice Department has said that an ad ban would not be constitutional. Instead the Government opted for an ad ban on health grounds. Judge Chabot agreed with the companies on every issue in his judgement.

At the appeal hearing, May 11, the Government stated that they did not have to show that advertising would reduce consumption. It is understood that judgement on this appeal could be announced in October. If this is in favor of the industry, the Government could appeal to the Supreme Court.

Ottawa City Council developed an ordinance to ban smoking in all bars and restaurants, and in every workplace in the city. It is probable that this will be modified and that restaurants will have non-smoking sections for 50% of their clients.

It is of interest that Government House Leader Harvie Andre rejected demands from the coalition of health groups for tougher warnings on cigarette packs. They were also told that the federal government had done enough through taxes and health warnings to discourage Canadians from smoking (Toronto Sun, March 11).

Industry

Imasco reported 1st Q 92 income at \$63.6m 0 up 23% over 1st Q 91. Earnings for 1992 are expected to exceed 1992 levels. Imperial Tobacco now has a 62.3% share of the domestic cigarette market. It is difficult at this period of the year, particularly with the suspension of the cigarette export tax (WSJ, April 9 (S)) to estimate sales of cigarettes. Cigarette makers have warned Government that they will shift production to the US, if the tax burden increases (Financial Post, April 10).

The OTMC produced "Tobacco in Canada 1991", a short review of the industry (S).

Leaf production

Export sales of the 1991 crop increased from 48-72 million, allowing a total sale of 154 million pounds well above the quota figure of 130 m. It is understood that there is a carry over of about 1.2 m pounds.

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The crop size for 1992 has been agreed at 153 m pounds plus a possible additional 7.5m. This is encouraging to farmers. The crop was fully transplanted by the first week of June and looks exceptionally well. Warm weather at the end of May and adequate rainfall has helped. Yields last year averaged 2,800 pounds per acre, which resulted in a large crop. Farmers are encouraged that export sales are up and considered that prices overall for the 1991 crop were satisfactory.

Miscellaneous

Effective May 1st, Canadian Airlines introduced non-smoking cabins on many of its international flights. H&W Canada have approved the sale of Merrill Dow's "Nicoderm".

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(S) Sent to PAS

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